

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 04498 041415Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----072220 041416Z /53
O 041153Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8355

S E C R E T KABUL 4498

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS: IQSLAMABAD, PARIS, JIDDA, NEW DELHI,
TEHRAN, USUN, BONN, MOSCOW, AND USLO PEKING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, AF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM TO SOUTH
ASIA

REF: A) STATE 141229; B) BONN 10167

1. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM
INCLUDE KABUL IN HIS ITINERARY FOR HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO
SOUTH ASIA (REFTEL A).

2. A VISIT BY A HIGH LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIAL WOULD GO
FAR TO DEMONSTRATE TO THIS REGIME -- AND THE AFGHAN
PEOPLE -- OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN
AFGHANISTAN AND TO ENCOURAGE THIS COUNTRY TO PRESERVE
ITS INDEPENDENCE. IT WOULD ALSO BE A SIGN TO MOSCOW
THAT WE HAVE NOT ABANDONED THIS COUNTRY TO IT. ON THE
OTHER HAND, FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY TO VISIT ISLAMABAD,
JIDDA, AND TEHRAN WITHOUT VISITING KABUL WOULD BE SEEN
HERE AS A U.S. EFFORT TO ERECT A CORDON SANITATIRE
AROUND AFGHANISTAN. THIS WOULD DAMAGE OUR EFFORTS TO
ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW REGIME.

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3. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TOP AFGHAN LEADERS, E.G.,
CHAIRMAN TARAKI AND VICE CMQIRMAN BABRAK, WOULD
NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE UNDER SECRETARY WITH FIRST-HAND
KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION HERE, BUT WOULD ENABLE HIM
TO SPEAK MORE AUTHORITATIVELY ABOUT AFGHAN DEVELOPMENTS
CONCERNING WHICH REGIONAL LEADERS ARE SURE TO ASK HIM

FOR HIS VIEWS. THE WEST GERMANS EVIDENTLY INTEND TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING SIMILAR THROUGH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PETERSEN'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO KABUL IN MID-JUNE (REFTEL B).

4. AMBASSADORS HUMMEL AND SULLIVAN WILL, I AM SURE, WANT TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS ON THIS RECOMMENDATION. I WOULD CERTAINLY THINK THAT WE WOULD WANT TO TELL THE PAKS AND IRANIANS ABOUT OUR INTENTION TO SEND THE UNDER SECRETARY TO KABUL BEFORE WE TELL THE AFGHANS.

5. THE UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT TO KABUL COULD BE AS SHORT AS A FOUR OR FIVE-HOUR LUNCHTIME STOPOVER BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND TEHRAN.
ELIOT

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